(c) To preserve, develop and nurture aviation infrastructure at all airports in the country, Airports Authority of India (AAI) is taking necessary steps like preparation of long term master plans for phase-wise development of infrastructure, entering into Memorandum of Understanding with concerned State Government with required concessions for development of some of the unviable airports, calling for expression of interest for establishment of Flying Clubs and MRO facilities at less busy or non-operational airports etc.

Extension of Jammu Airport

1483. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to extend the Jammu Airport;

(b) if so, the details of land which has been acquired recently; and

(c) the fund sanctioned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 3.4 acres of land has recently been acquired at a cost of Rs. 4.98 crore.

Limit of number of foreign pilots

1484. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of Ministry to appoint foreign pilots to meet the increase in demand of pilots by various airlines operators in the Aviation industry:

(b) if so, the number of pilots appointed airline-wise;

(c) whether there is any plan of Government to meet the growing demand of pilot day-by-day by employing Indian pilots;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Ministry will form any policy to prohibit the maximum number of foreign pilots being appointed by these Airlines in future to provide employment to trained Indian Pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Appointment of foreign pilots is done by the concerned airlines based on their need. So far, Directorate General of Civil Aviation has cleared 804 foreign pilots. The airline-wise break up is Indigo-66, Paramount Airways-21, Blue Dart-10, Spice Jet-42, Air DECCAN-149, Alliance Air-20, Go Air-13, Kingfisher Airlines-95, Jet Airways-271 and Air India-117.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled Indian pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for pilots for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity from 40 to 100 pilots per years, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra for training 100 cadets and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation/Aero Club of India.